

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ADDIS 04689 030832Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00
USIE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 IO-13
ACDA-07 MC-02 OMB-01 TRSE-00 AID-05 IGA-02 /103 W
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O P 030756Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5089
INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 4689

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS, US, SO
SUBJECT: ETHIOPIAN PROTEST OVER US DECISION ON ARMS TO SOMALIA

REF: ADDIS ABABA 4683

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED. AUGUST 3 PRESS GIVES EXACT TEXT OF
WHAT I WAS SUPPOSED TO HAVE SAID TO FONMIN FELLEKE IN RE-
SPONSE TO HIS CRITICISM OF US ARMS DECISION ON SOMALIA, AS
FOLLOWS: BEGIN QUOTE.

A. IN ACCORDANCE WITH REQUEST OF SOMALIA THAT AMERI-
CAN AND OTHER GOVERNMENTS PROVIDE IT WITH ARMS AID, AMERI-
CAN GOVERNMENT HAS, AFTER CONSULTATIONS WITH OTHER GOVERN-
MENTS APPROACHED, AGREED IN PRINCIPLE TO SUPPLY SOMALIA
WITH DEFENSIVE WEAPONS.

B. CHARGE D' AFFAIRES EXPLAINED THAT ARMS TO BE GIVEN
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TO SOMALIA ARE MEANT FOR ITS OWN DEFENSE AND FOR MAIN-
TAINING ITS INTERNAL SECURITY AND NOT FOR AGGRESSION
AGAINST OTHER COUNTRIES.

C. CHARGE D' AFFAIRES AFFIRMED THAT THE AMERI-
CAN GOVERNMENT WILL NOT IN ANY WAY INTERFERE IN MATTER
BETWEEN ETHIOPIA AND SOMALIA.

D. AMERICAN ENVOY REAFFIRMED TO ETHIOPIAN FOREIGN MINISTER THAT IN ACCORDANCE WITH PRINCIPLES OF ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY (OAU), THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT RESPECTS UNITY AND TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF ETHIOPIA AND UPHOLDS THAT ANY DISPUTE AMONG AFRICAN COUNTRIES ARISING AS RESULT OF TERRITORIAL CLAIMS BE SETTLED ON BASIS OF CHARTER OF THE OAU. THE CHARGE D' AFFAIRES RECALLED IN THIS CONNECTION STATEMENT MADE TO JOURNALISTS BY US SECRETARY OF STATE MR. CYRUS VANCE ON JULY 29, 1977, THAT ARMS AID TO SOMALIA WAS AGREED UPON ONLY IN PRINCIPLE.

E. CHARGE D' AFFAIRES FURTHER EXPLAINED THAT WHEN ARMS AGREED UPON IN PRINCIPLE ARE DELIVERED TO SOMALIA, IT WILL BE DONE SO WITH AN OBLIGATION ON PART OF SOMALIA THAT THEY WILL NOT USE THESE ARMS AGAINST ETHIOPIA.

2. BRITISH CHARGE D' AFFAIRES GAVE FOLLOWING POINTS OF EXPLANATION ON THE PART OF HIS COUNTRY:

A. CHARGE D' AFFAIRES EXPLAINED THAT ARMS AID TO SOMALIA WHICH HAD BEEN AGREED UPON IN PRINCIPLE IS PURELY FOR DEFENSIVE AND INTERNAL SECURITY AND NOT FOR AGGRESSIVE PURPOSES. ARMS SUPPLY THAT HAS BEEN CONFIDENTIAL

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ENVISAGED IS IN ACCORDANCE WITH SOMALIA'S REQUEST TO BRITISH GOVERNMENT AND THAT SINCE NEGOTIATIONS HAVE NOT BEEN FINALIZED AS YET, ARMS IN QUESTION WILL NOT BE DELIVERED TO SOMALIA IN NEAR FUTURE.

B. BRITISH CHARGE D' AFFAIRES EXPLAINED THAT THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT RESPECTS THE UNITY AND TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF ETHIOPIA AND BELIVES THAT PROBLEMS ARISING AMONG AFRICANS SHOULD BE SETTLED ONLY BY AFRICANS IN LINE WITH THE PRINCIPLES ENSHRINED IN THE OAU CHARTER. END UNCLASSIFIED. END QUOTE.

3. BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL. AS DEPARTMENT WILL RECOGNIZE, COMMENTS ATTRIBUTED TO CHARGE, WHILE PARAPHRASED AND SLIGHTLY DRESSED UP FOR LOCAL CONSUMPTION, FOLLOW CLOSELY PRESS GUIDANCE PROVIDED STATE 175545, COPY OF WHICH HAD PREVIOUSLY BEEN GIVEN TO MOFA, PLUS SECRETARY'S REPLY TO JOURNALIST DURING HIS JULY 29 PRESS CONFERENCE. WHILE IT REGRETTABLE MOFA DID NOT WARN US IN ADVANCE THAT THEY INTENDED GO PUBLIC WITH CHARGE'S REPLIES, FACT IS THAT THIS ONE OF FEW TIMES OVER PAST TWO YEARS THAT OUR SIDE OF ANY ISSUE HAS

RECEIVED LOCAL PUBLICITY IN REASONABLY ACCURATE AND
COMPLETE FORM AND WITHOUT EDITORIALIZATION (WHICH
MAY COME LATER). END CONFIDENTIAL.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Control Number: n/a
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Sent Date: 03-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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